

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated in the following recitation of pending claims.

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently amended) The assembly of claim 9 wherein the multi-user radio communication system defines a contention-free period, and wherein the transmit power indication signal generated by said signal generator is transmitted to a single selected one of the ~~first and the at least second one of~~ the plurality of mobile stations.

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3. (Currently amended) The assembly of claim 2 wherein said signal generator further generates a power correction information signal for transmission to the single selected one of the plurality of mobile stations, the power ~~connection~~ correction information signal of a value representative of an amount at which the selected one of the mobile stations is to communicate the communication signals.

4. (Previously amended) The assembly of claim 2 wherein the contention free period comprises a plurality of definable sub-periods, wherein the transmit power indication signal generated by said signal generator is generated during at least one of the plurality of definable sub-periods of the contention free period.

5. (Currently amended) The assembly of claim 4 further comprising a mobile-station power-level calculator positioned at the selected one of the plurality of mobile stations, said mobile-station power-level calculator operable responsive to the value of the transmit power indication signal and to the value of the power correction information signal to calculate a power-level at which communication signals are to be generated by the selected mobile station.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently amended) The assembly of claim 6 5 wherein the radio communication system defines polling periods during which the network infrastructure polls a selected one of the first mobile station and the at least second mobile station and wherein the power correction information signal is transmitted to the selected one of the mobile stations when the network infrastructure polls the selected one of the mobile stations.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) In a multi-user radio communication system having a network infrastructure with which a ~~first mobile station and at least a second mobile station communicates~~ plurality of mobile stations communicate data, the data forming portions of communication signals transmitted at selected power levels, an improvement of an assembly for facilitating selection of the power levels at which to transmit the communication signals, said assembly comprising:

a signal generator coupled to the network infrastructure, said signal generator for generating, during selected intervals, a transmit power indication signal for broadcast transmission to ~~at least a selected one of the first mobile station and the at least second mobile station~~ the plurality of mobile stations, the transmit power indication signal of a value representative of a maximum allowable power level permitted of the selected power levels at which the plurality of mobile stations are to transmit the communication signals;

~~wherein the radio communication system defines beacon intervals within which beacon signals are broadcast by the network infrastructure and wherein the transmit power indication signal generated by said signal generator is broadcast as part of the beacon signals.~~

10. (Currently amended) The assembly of claim 9 wherein the multi-user radio communication system defines a contention period, and wherein the transmit power indication signal generated by said signal generator is ~~transmitted broadcast to all of the first and at least second~~ the plurality of mobile stations, respectively to control their transmission power during the contention period.

11. (Previously amended) The assembly of claim 10 wherein the contention period comprises a plurality of definable sub-periods, wherein the transmit power indication signal generated by said signal generator is generated during at least one of the plurality of definable sub-periods of the contention period.

12. (Currently amended) The assembly of claim 11 wherein ~~at~~ each of the ~~first and at least second~~ plurality of mobile stations transmit communication signals at power levels substantially corresponding to the maximum allowable power level indicated by the value of the transmit power indication signal.

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13. (Currently amended) They assembly of claim 9, wherein the radio communication system defines beacon intervals within which beacon signals are broadcast, and wherein the transmit power indication signal generated by said signal generator is broadcast as part of the beacon signals. ~~is broadcast as a field within a beacon frame body of the beacon signals.~~

14. (Currently amended) The assembly of claim 9 wherein the radio communication system is operable pursuant to a communication standard that defines a contention-free period and a contention period and wherein the transmit power indication signal is transmitted in a first manner during the contention-free period and in a second manner during contention period.

15. (Currently amended) The assembly of claim 14 wherein the first manner by which the transmit power indication signal is transmitted comprises transmission to a selected one of the ~~first mobile station and the at least second mobile station~~ plurality of mobile stations.

16. (Cancelled)

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17. (Currently amended) In a method for communicating in a multi-user radio communication system having a network infrastructure with which a ~~first mobile station and at least a second mobile station communicate~~ plurality of mobile stations communicate data, the data forming portions of communication signals transmitted at selected power levels, an improvement of a method for facilitating selection of the power levels at which to transmit the communication signals, said method comprising:

generating, during selected intervals, a transmit power indication signal of a value representative of a maximum allowable power level permitted of the selected power levels at which the plurality of mobile stations are to transmit the communication signals; and

transmitting broadcasting the transmit power indication signal,

~~wherein the radio communication system defines beacon intervals within which beacon signals are broadcast by the network infrastructure and wherein the transmit power indication signal generated by said signal generator is broadcast as part of the beacon signals.~~

18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17 wherein the radio communication system defines a contention-free period and wherein said operation of transmitting comprises transmitting the transmit power indication signal to a selected one of the ~~first and at least second~~ plurality of mobile stations, respectively, during the contention-free period.

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 18 further comprising the additional operations of sending a power correction information signal to the selected one of the plurality of mobile stations and selecting operating power levels at which communication signals are transmitted by the selected one of the plurality of mobile stations responsive to values of the power correction information signal and of the transmit power indication signal.

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20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17 wherein the radio communication system defines a contention period and wherein said operation of transmitting comprises transmitting the transmit power indication signal to all of the ~~first and at least second~~ plurality of mobile stations, respectively, during the contention period.

21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the radio communication system defines beacon intervals within which beacon signals are broadcast by the network infrastructure and wherein the transmit power indication signal generated by said signal generator is broadcast as part of the beacon signals.

~~wherein the transmit power indication signal broadcast as part of the beacon signals is broadcast as a field within a beacon frame body of the beacon signals.~~

22. (Previously added) In a radio communication system having a network infrastructure for wireless communication with a plurality of mobile stations, wherein the radio communication system defines a contention period and a contention-free period, an improvement of apparatus for power management, said apparatus comprising:

a signal generator coupled to the network infrastructure, said signal generator for generating a transmit power indication signal for transmission to at least a selected one of the plurality of mobile stations;

wherein the transmit power indication signal has a value that varies as a function of whether the signal is to be transmitted during a contention period or a contention-free period.

23. (Previously added) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the radio communication system defines beacon intervals within which beacon signals are broadcast by the network infrastructure and wherein the transmit power indication signal generated by said signal generator is broadcast as part of the beacon signals.

24. (Previously added) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the transmit power indication signal generated by said signal generator and broadcast as part of the beacon signals is transmitted as a field within a beacon-frame body of the beacon signals.